

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in reply to the non-final Office Action mailed on September, 26 2006. No fee is due in connection with this Amendment. The Director is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-1818. If such a withdrawal is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket No. 115808-462 on the account statement.

Claims 1, 7-8 and 14-16 are pending in this application. Claims 17-55 were previously withdrawn. Claims 2-6 and 9-13 were previously cancelled. In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under U.S.C. §102, Claim 7 is objected to, and Claims 14-16 are allowed. In response, Claims 1, 7-8 and 14-16 have been cancelled and Claims 56-59 have been added. This amendment does not add new matter. In view of the amendment and/or for the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections and objections should be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,245,379 to Lepine ("*Lepine*"), or in the alternative, as anticipated by G.B. Patent No. 2,130,071 to Yoshida ("*Yoshida*"). Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,203,820 to Vickery ("*Vickery*"). In response, Applicants have canceled Claims 1 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to continue to pursue the cancelled claims and the subject matter disclosed therein in a further patent application.

In the Office Action, Claims 7 and 14-16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, new Claims 56-59 have been added and effectively represent the subject matter as defined in Claims 7 and 14-16, respectively, in allowable form as suggested by the Patent Office. Claim 56 represents the subject matter as defined in Claims 1 and 7. Claim 57 represents the subject matter as defined in Claims 8 and 14. Claim 58 represents the subject matter as defined in Claims 8 and 15. Claim 59 represents the subject matter as defined in Claims 8 and 16. Accordingly, Claims 56-59 should be rendered allowable as previously discussed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application only contains allowable subject matter and therefore respectfully requests that the patent application be passed to allowance. To the extent that the Patent Office has any questions or there are any issues that need to be addressed

before the above-identified patent application is passed to allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Patent Office contact Applicant's undersigned attorney.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified patent application and earnestly solicit an early allowance of same.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Robert M. Barrett

Reg. No. 30,142

Customer No.: 29157

Dated: 12.21.2006